

Hayes, Tracy (2020) Shifting Perspectives on Nature through Pedagogical Practices [webinar]. In: Shifting Perspectives on Nature through Pedagogical Practices, 28 October 2020, Online. (Unpublished)

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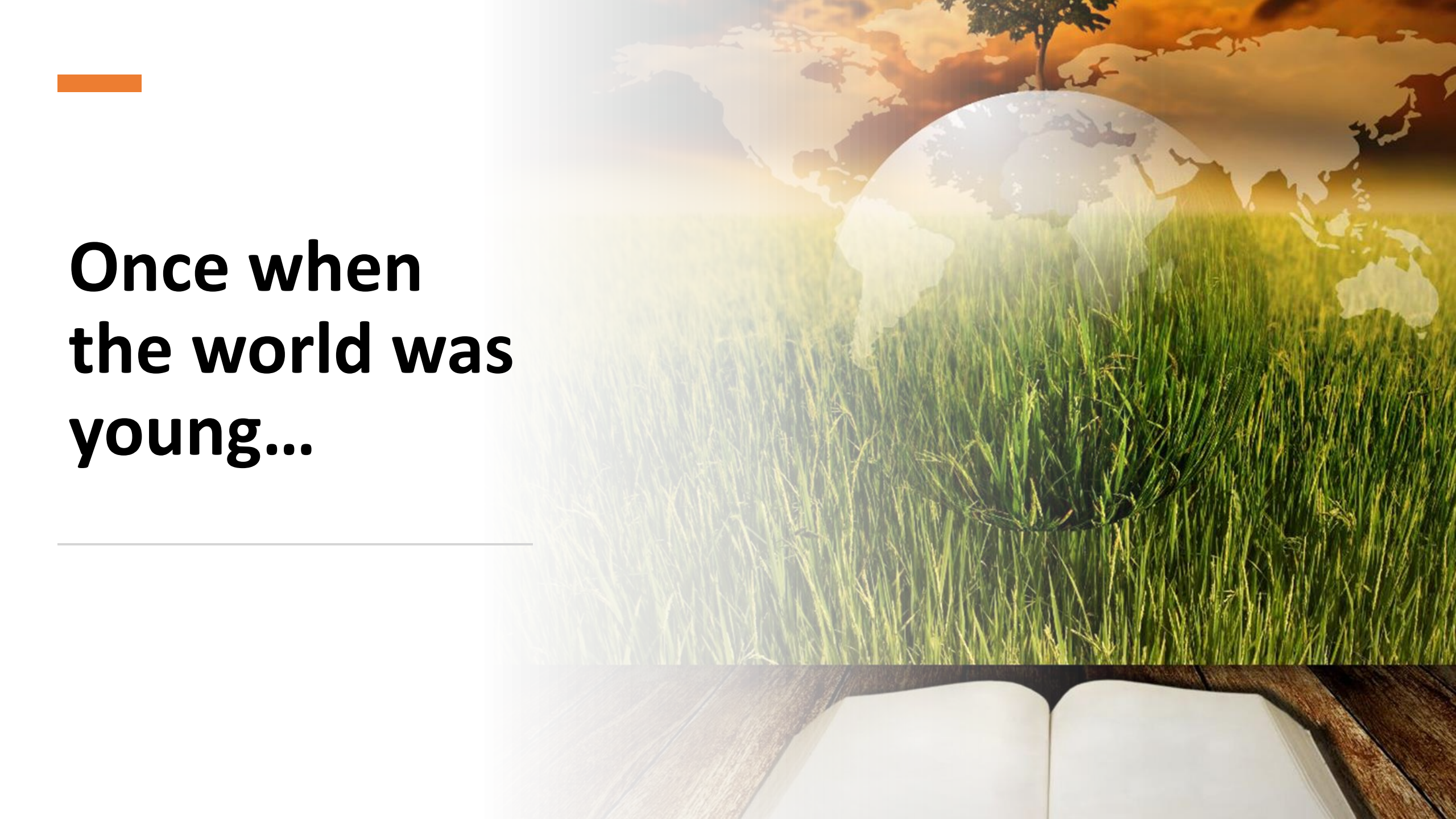
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The image is a composite. The top half shows a sunset over a savanna landscape with tall green grass and silhouettes of trees and animals. A semi-transparent globe is overlaid on the center of the sunset. The bottom half shows an open book with blank white pages resting on a dark wooden surface.

**Once when
the world was
young...**



Shifting perspectives on nature through illustrations in children's literature

Dr Tracy Ann Hayes
Institute of Health
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Bear illustrations in children's literature

- Acknowledge co-authors Prof Ian Convery & Prof Heather Prince
- Plethora of animals illustrated in children's literature, however, these images tend to be anthropomorphised images of non-human animals, living in a limited range of habitats.
- A plea – when using/citing please credit both author and illustrator, for example:
 - Winnie the Pooh (Milne and Shepard).
 - Paddington Bear (Bond and Fortnum).
 - Going on a Bear Hunt (Rosen and Oxenbury).



Insert word cloud activity

Word cloud

What bear stories have you / do you read?

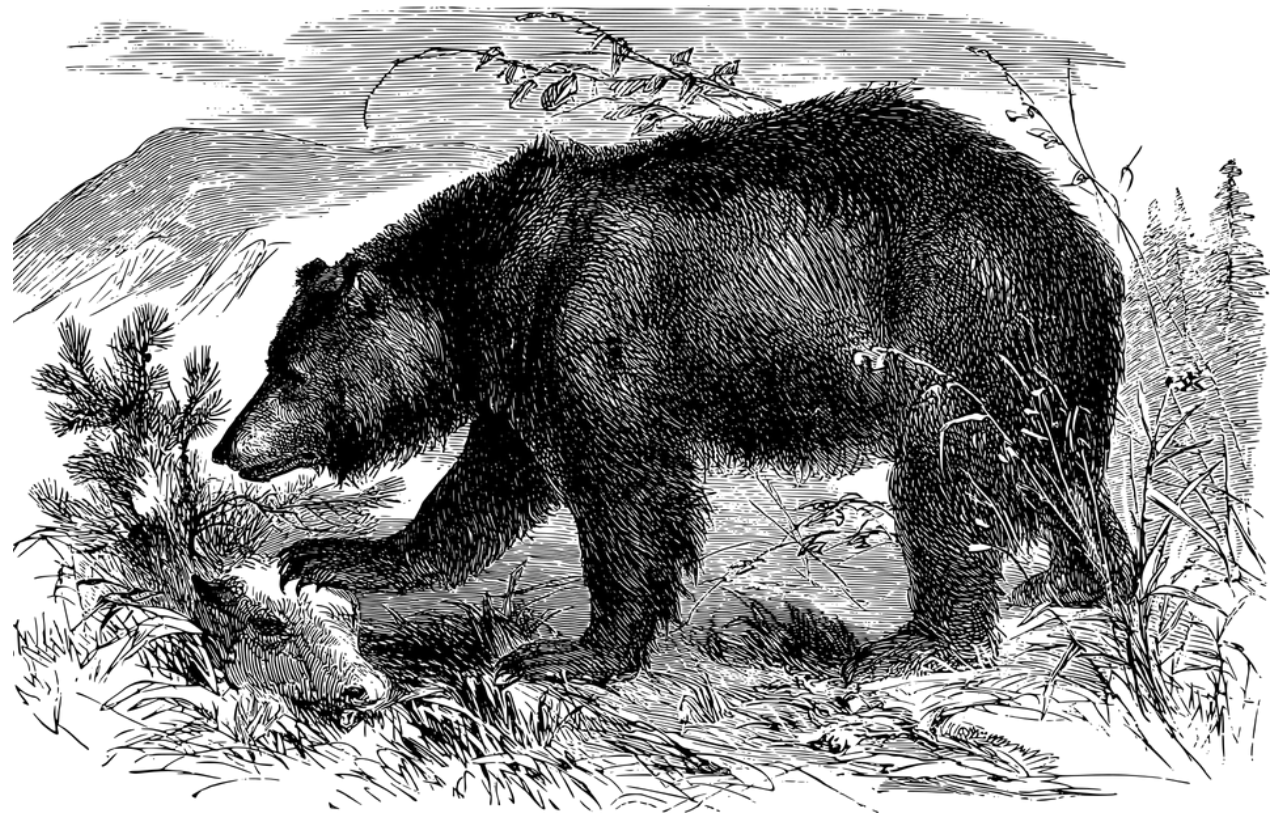
....if we believe that an animal will naturally want to harm, kill or eat us, then the mere idea of co-existence becomes untenable and foolhardy (Bekoff, 2014)...



Over time, the traditional tales have become sanitised and purified, deemed more fitting for the ears of children (Nikolajeva 1996)...



In children's literature,
sometimes the animals
are illustrated in
character form as toys
(the bear is noticeably a
teddy bear), other times
they are more
representative of an
animal...



... these symbolic images
are also a window into a
culture's ideas about
children and animals and
how they are related...
(Melson, 2005, 18)



If we adopt an anthropocentric view
of the world, nature is seen as
expendable, with the needs of
humans coming first...

Habitat destruction...

Biodiversity loss...



Goldilocks and the One Bear does not have the same appeal as when there are three....

The Red Riding Hood story does not work in the absence of wolves.... (Hayes, work in progress)



...it is time for some honest stories for children of all ages to share
...stories that encourage respect for bears (and other predators) and illustrate the need for them to be given the space to be bears, in all their wondrous and fearsome glory...



References

- Bekoff, M. (2014). *Rewilding our hearts: Building pathways of compassion and coexistence*. California, US: New World Library.
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Images on slides

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